California Charter Schools Association

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October 27, 2017

Akeysha Goode, Principal
Parker Hudnut, CEO
Lou Dantzler Preparatory Charter Elementary
5940 S. Budlong Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90044

Cc: David Moore, Chairman of the ICEF Board of Directors

Dear Ms. Goode and Mr. Hudnut,

We would like to thank you for Lou Dantzler Preparatory Charter Elementary's submission of additional data during our Multiple Measure Review process. After extensive analysis and deliberation, CCSA has determined that the additional data received for Lou Dantzler is not sufficient to remove CCSA's designation of "Below Minimum Renewal Criteria" for the school. This means that CCSA will be advocating for non-renewal of Lou Dantzler's charter through the school's renewal process with the authorizer and with a public media release during the week of November 14, 2017.

We recognize this is difficult news to receive, but we wanted to give you the notification as soon as possible. We would like to schedule a call with you in the next few days at your convenience to provide more detail about the rationale behind CCSA's determination. We would suggest you consider informing your school community in advance of our public release in mid-November. During our call, we will be glad to answer any questions you may have regarding our next steps so that you can be fully prepared to answer questions your school community may ask. We also want to let you know that at this point in the process, some schools in previous years have decided to not seek renewal, instead allowing their charter to voluntarily close at the end of the current school year. Should Lou Dantzler decide to seek such a course of action, please notify us immediately as we have typically then removed these schools from our public non-renewal advocacy.

Below is more detail about Lou Dantzler's performance and the academic accountability framework we used to arrive at our determination.

CCSA's Minimum Accountability Criteria for Renewal
To qualify for CCSA renewal support in 2017-18, a school needed to meet one of the criteria outlined below. Lou Dantzler did not meet any of the initial criteria, was in the bottom 5% of performance statewide on CAASPP, and the Multiple Measure Review did not yield evidence of student outcome success and growth in achievement beyond that which is seen at other schools.

To qualify for renewal support in 2017-18, a school needed to meet one of the initial filters outlined below or demonstrate success through the Multiple Measure Review. More information about these criteria are available at http://www.ccsa.org/advocacy/accountability/#tab-framework.

Initial Filters

Three measures of state test scores and postsecondary readiness serve as "initial filters":

1. **Status measure**: Above 40th percentile on CAASPP on most recent year of data available

- CCSA uses a weighted average of CAASPP scale scores measuring how far the average student is above/below the "Met" standard and ranked 0-100th percentile statewide.
- Additionally, schools performing in the bottom 5th percentile must participate in CCSA's Multiple Measure Review before receiving CCSA's advocacy support for renewal or replication.

2. **Growth/ Postsecondary readiness**
   - **Elementary/middle schools**: Growth over time on CAASPP: An increase on the Average Point Difference "APD" measure by at least 18 scale score points on CAASPP between 2014-15 and 2016-17 (the 75th percentile of growth statewide)
   - **High schools:** 75% or more of 12th grade graduates completing all "a-g" requirements

3. **Similar Students**: "Within or above predicted" on two of the last three years on CCSA's Similar Students Measure (2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17). This measures how schools are performing with similar students across the state.

Multiple Measure Review

4. Schools below ALL the initial filters or in the bottom 5% statewide on CAASPP can share a wide range of student outcome metrics aligned to California's eight state priorities as described in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The standard for this review is to identify substantially compelling evidence of student outcome success and growth in achievement beyond that which is seen at other schools. This is also an opportunity for the school to be able to tell its own data story of success in achieving strong student outcomes, choosing the measures it feels are most closely aligned to its mission and are most indicative of the school's success.

Lou Dantzler's Performance on Metrics used in CCSA's Minimum Academic Accountability Criteria:

	# tested	State Rank Percentile	Growth	Similar Students
2015	131	29th	N/A	Within
2016	121	6th	-25.4	Within
2017	170	3rd	-17.1	Below

Lou Dantzler's performance on initial filters:
Lou Dantzler was in the 3rd percentile of performance last year on CAASSP and had showed declines in each of the previous two years. In 2016-17, it performed "below predicted" compared to schools serving similar student demographics. Because the school was in the bottom 5% of performance statewide, it required a Multiple Measure Review.

Lou Dantzler's results in multiple measure review:

- The school implemented NWEA in the 2016-17 school year but did not have any additional growth monitoring data prior to the last school year to report.
  - In the 2016-17 Fall to Spring NWEA growth results in the school's focus area of reading, only 2 of 6 grades on average met their expected annual growth levels.
  - Also in 2016-17, when looking at the growth average compared to students who started at a similar starting performance level, with similar urban and FRL demographic characteristics as Lou Dantzler students, only 3 of 6 grades demonstrated comparable growth to the NWEA virtual control group.
  - While the Fall 2016 to Fall 2017 NWEA data showed better gains, these scores represented only about a half to two thirds of the students in tested grade levels. As such, staff did not feel that this new data was sufficient/representative enough of all students' learning

- 2016-17 Fountas and Pinnell ("BAS") data show an average of grade level reading growth in Kindergarten and then after grade levels losing ground on their instructional growth levels. Based on the Fountas and Pinnell continuum all grade levels ended with the average student in need of intensive intervention in 1st-7th grades.
- iReady intervention and assessment is just being implemented at the school to support math in 2017-18 so there are no results available.
- The school has acknowledged that though it has put new interventions in place, such as the workshop model, the school is expecting it will take a full 5 years to achieve maximum growth. In the meantime, students are falling further behind grade level while at the school. This does not currently match the urgent need of acceleration of outcomes for the extremely low performance of the students at the school.
- The Multiple Measure Review also considered programs, interventions and results for English learners, high needs and exceptional students, other student outcomes as measured by performance in other areas of study, student engagement, matriculation outcomes, chronic truancy & attendance, parent involvement, school climate, suspension, expulsion and other measures as submitted by the school in alignment with its mission and goals.

In sum, we did not find compelling evidence of success in supporting student learning outcomes to merit CCSA support and will thus be advocating for the non-renewal of Lou Dantzler Elementary. Please let us know if and when you might be available this week for a phone call to discuss this matter in more depth. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Very sincerely,

Elizabeth Robitaille, Ed.D., CCSA Senior Vice President, Achievement & Performance Management

Cc: Allison Kenda, CCSA Managing Director, Achievement & Performance Management
Cassy Horton, CCSA Managing Regional Director, Greater Los Angeles